

# ALCOVA HEIGHTS

The Newsletter of the Alcova Heights Neighborhood, Arlington, Virginia

alcovaheights.com

April 2018

## Upcoming Events

### Alcova Heights Association Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 7pm  
Baptist Church, S. Monroe & 8th St.

### Annual Alcova Heights Park Clean Up

Saturday, May 19, 8:30-11:00am

### Alcova Heights Block Party

Saturday, September 29

## Good-to-Know Info:

### Need to repair or replace your trash or recycling cart?

You can request a cart repair on-line ([http://iframe.publicstuff.com/#/?client\\_id=930&request\\_type\\_id=1003272](http://iframe.publicstuff.com/#/?client_id=930&request_type_id=1003272)) or contact Customer Service at 703-228-6570. The cart repair will take place on your next collection day. Carts that can't be repaired will be replaced. There is no charge for cart repairs or replacements due to normal wear and tear, weather or contractor handling. Please note there is a fee for replacement carts due to damage caused by the resident.

### Need to report a non-emergency incident to the police?

The Arlington County Police non-emergency number is 703-558-2222.

There are several different incident types that can be entered online: <https://police.arlingtonva.us/online-police-reporting-system/#faq>

## President's Update

by Lander Allin, AHCA President

Happy Spring! Hopefully the cold will have been replaced with more spring-like temps by the time this newsletter is published. If not, have faith - it will be hot before we know it!

I just have a few things to report. First, our next Association meeting is coming up quickly. We'll be meeting on Thursday, April 26. As usual we will meet at the Baptist Church at 7pm. Our guest speaker will be Delegate Alfonso Lopez who will be joining us to report on the General Assembly session that just concluded. If you haven't spent any time with Alfonso, I think you will find him to be an engaging and thoughtful speaker. Please come prepared to ask Alfonso questions about anything related to the General Assembly.

We've got our annual park clean up coming up next month. Please come out and join us on Saturday, May 19 from 8:30 to 11:00. We'll meet at the sand volleyball court on South 8th Street. We're still looking for volunteers to help organize and put this on. Please let me know if you're interesting in helping out.

Lastly, we've confirmed the date for the annual block party. It will be held in late September again this year. That should put us into pleasant weather and with the kids back in school, most folks should be around and able to attend. Please circle September 29 on your calendar. More details to follow.

That's it for now. I look forward to seeing you on the 26th!



## Pets of the Month

**Teddie:** Elly Burke writes of Teddie, "Our sweet mini-goldendoodle is 18 months old and likes to keep an eye on the street from the front door of our house on 7th."



**Jax:** "Here's our dog Jax, getting ready for the Kentucky Derby," say Terri and Mike Barker of 8th St.



## School News by Alex Stevens

This spring, AH residents Lauren Feliz-Durishin, Sheila Fleischhacker, and Alex Stevens participated in the first phase of the elementary school rezoning process: a discussion about walk zones that will be used to determine future school boundaries. While the process is far from complete, here are the results.

### Barrett (North)

Not walkable along George Mason including having to cross Rt 50

### Henry & Fleet (East)

Part of Alcovia Heights along Glebe were marked as being walkable for the new elementary school, Fleet, located on the same campus as Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Henry was designated as outside of the walk zone, largely due to it becoming the Montessori school.

### Barcroft (West)

Ultimately deemed not walkable because most of our neighborhood falls outside the walk zone.

### Randolph (South)

Randolph is walkable, with necessary traffic precautions, but due to the amount of traffic that moves along Columbia Pike, it remains questionable.

### What's next:

April 12: Staff will post draft recommendations

April 12-30: Community Input  
Participating in an online questionnaire  
Attend a Staff Office Hour session  
(Spanish-speaking staff available)

Monday, April 16: 7-8:30 p.m. in  
Wakefield H.S. cafeteria

Friday, April 20: 7:30-9 a.m. at the  
Education Center, Room 101

Saturday, April 21: 9:30-11 a.m. in  
Kenmore M.S. cafeteria

May 1 – Community Meeting, York-  
town High School, 7 p.m.

May 17 – The Superintendent will  
present a recommendation to the  
School Board.

June 21: The School Board will take  
action on the proposals presented. This  
decision may designate sites as either  
neighborhood or option schools.

Fall 2018: During the second phase of  
this initiative, staff will finalize recom-  
mended elementary school boundaries.

November 2018: School Board will  
take action on elementary school  
boundaries.

# KIDS



These Alcovia Heights youth are available for babysitting, pet sitting and other services. Want your name added to the list? Please e-mail additions or revisions to the editor at [mrhode@gmail.com](mailto:mrhode@gmail.com).

**B - babysitting**

**B-RC - babysitting/Red Cross certified**

**D - dog walking**

**H - house sitting**

**L - lawn mowing**

**M - Mother's helper**

**O - odd jobs**

**P - pet sitting**

**R - leaf raking**

**S - snow shoveling**

**T - putting out trash bins**

**W - plant watering**

**Sofia Abela** (B-RC, T, W), 703-317-7630, [susilill@gmail.com](mailto:susilill@gmail.com)

**Andrew Bolfek** (L, O, P, R, S, T, W), 703-717-9009, [andrew.bolfek@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.bolfek@gmail.com)

**Andrew Burd** (L, R, S, T), 571-289-6347, [jrburd@verizon.net](mailto:jrburd@verizon.net)

**Quin DuBois** (B, P, D, O, T, W), 703-965-9093, [quin.dubois.is@gmail.com](mailto:quin.dubois.is@gmail.com)

**Charlotte Evans** (B-RC, MH), [charlottereid3435@gmail.com](mailto:charlottereid3435@gmail.com)

**Mia Galvin** (B, M, P, D, H), 703-772-0320

**Lily Hoffman** (B, M, P, D), 571-999-3583

**Natalie Manlove** (B-RC, M, D, P, W), 703-862-3867

**Sean Manlove** (B-4 yr+, P, D, L), 571-839-8238, [sean.m.manlove@gmail.com](mailto:sean.m.manlove@gmail.com)

**Lilly Neubauer** (B, P, M, D), [mneubs@gmail.com](mailto:mneubs@gmail.com)

**Maggie Neubauer** (B, P, M, D), [mneubs@gmail.com](mailto:mneubs@gmail.com)

### Key to pictures for Alcovia Heights Spring Safari (don't cheat!):

1. Alcovia House sign - located on S.8th Street, at intersection with S. Lincoln Street.
2. Capital Bike Share - located at the intersection of S. Oakland Street and Columbia Pike.
3. Public staircase - located between S. 9th and S. Randolph Streets.
4. Arlington Firefighters Memorial - located at Fire Station Number 1, 500 S. Glebe Rd.
5. Oakland Street Park - located at the intersection of S. 9th and S. Oakland Streets.
6. Garden Artifacts - located at the corner of S. Oakland and S. 6th Streets.
7. Garage Sign - located on the alley connecting S. Monroe and S. Oakland Streets, between 6th and 7th Streets.
8. AHCA Kiosk - located in Alcovia Heights Park, at the corner of S. 8th and S. Randolph Streets.
9. Cornerstone of Arlington Baptist Church at the corner of S. Monroe and S. 7th Streets (eastern side of church.)

Mike Rhode, editor; Susi Lill, layout.

by Diane Duston

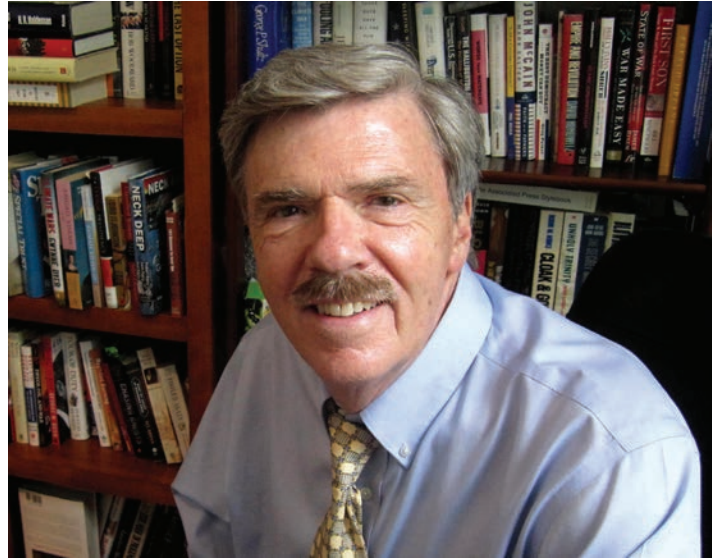
Thanks so much to the many neighbors who offered condolences, brought food, and sent flowers and cards after my husband Robert Parry passed away on Jan. 27. The outpouring of neighborly support provided great comfort and warmth at a very difficult time. His death at age 68 was sudden and unexpected. It was caused by a series of three strokes over a 4-week period brought on by undiagnosed pancreatic cancer. He had shown no symptoms of the disease until the strokes. We were all taken by surprise. He passed away peacefully at the Capital Caring Hospice in Arlington just two weeks after being admitted to the hospital.

Many of you saw Bob on his daily jog around the neighborhood or when he was out walking our dog Izzy. We have lived in Alcova Heights since 2003, and before that lived in Arlington Heights.

Bob and I met in 1982 at the Washington bureau of The Associated Press when I was transferred there as a reporter and editor. He had already established himself as an investigative reporter and was intrigued by the Reagan Administration's interest in Central America. Congress had banned U.S. support of Nicaraguan rebels, known as the contras. But Bob discovered that the CIA was providing assassination manuals to the contras and that Lt. Col. Oliver North, then-deputy director of the National Security Council, was involved in a covert operation to support the contras with proceeds from secret arms sales to Iran. For his work in what became known as the Iran-Contra scandal, Bob won the George Polk Award for national reporting, the Associated Managing Editors Association Award for Top AP Reporting and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

In 1987, Bob left the AP for Newsweek where he covered the Iran-Contra hearings. Later he worked for PBS' Frontline on several documentaries, including an investigation of whether the Reagan campaign had sabotaged the release of American hostages in Iran in 1980 to keep President Jimmy Carter from being re-elected. He later turned his work into a book entitled *Trick or Treason: The October Surprise Mystery*, which was published in 1993.

In 1995, Bob started the first investigative journalism website on the Internet -- Consortiumnews.com -- which is still publishing. He wrote five other books, and appeared frequently on radio and cable TV interviews. Bob was self-effacing and modest. He was embarrassed and, I think a little irritated, when I bragged to people that like a movie



star, he had his own entry on the movie site IMDb for the documentaries in which he had appeared. His mission was always to seek the truth. He followed the leads without a political agenda. He believed that an informed public was essential to democracy, and that his role as a journalist was to provide that information. For those efforts, the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard awarded him the I.F. Stone Medal For Journalistic Independence in 2015. Last year, he received the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism.

Bob had three great loves in life -- his family, journalism and the Boston sports teams. Born in Hartford, CT, he grew up in Northborough, MA, and was a rabid Patriots and Red Sox fan. He devoted as much effort to debunking stories that Tom Brady allegedly deflated footballs as any government scandal that he ever investigated. His enthusiasm for the Red Sox turned all his children into fans even though they all grew up in Arlington.

Bob and I would have celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary in April. Sam, Nat and Liz were in elementary school when we got together and we had Jeff in 1988. Bob worked hard and long at journalism, but family life was what he relished. Being grandfather to Josie, Drew, Abby, Ellie, Eva and Lea meant more to him than anything. When he needed a break from the pressure of his work, he would drive off to Target or the little toy store in Shirlington to stock up on toys for the next grandchild's visit or birthday. A hand puppet named Kanga that Bob's sister had given oldest son Sam as a baby became a fixture when the kids were around. The little kids were so charmed by Kanga that Bob was inspired to write a book featuring them in selfies with the puppet. Of all his writings, that one is the family favorite.



## A Neighbor Profile: *Chris Ingram*

We moved up to Arlington in 1999 when my spouse, Karla Hagan, and I completed grad school, and I took my first “real job” outside the university world. We were expecting our first child, and were looking to rent a single family home if possible. Living in Arlington was important to us since my job was in Rosslyn, and we did not want to start life in the DC area with one of us having a long commute. We have actually lived in 3 different houses, all on the same block of 7th Street. Karla and I have two daughters, one a freshman in college at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and one a sophomore at Wakefield. We also have a cat and a dog.



Both my wife and I have a PhD in Physics. Several of our friends from graduate school had moved to the DC region and taken jobs in government contracting of one kind or another. Since neither of us was planning on staying in academia, it seemed like a reasonable thing to apply for positions in this area. It also gave me a chance to use the knowledge I gained in school, learn new things, and do interesting work. I have worked for a few different companies in the government contracting / defense sphere, mostly in Arlington but more recently out in Tysons and Reston. I have probably spent the most years of

my career working on projects related to missile defense, either as an analyst (making sure the US government is getting what they pay for) or in a research and development role (trying to make systems that the US is building better). The company I work for now started in missile defense, but more of our work is in a related but different area - providing tracking data on satellites, both for US government and commercial customers.

I have always been a big reader - mostly SF and fantasy fiction, occasionally non-fiction. Games are a big hobby for me also, primarily board games, which have had a real renaissance in the past decade or so. Also, I am really into craft beer, so the existence of local places along Columbia Pike like Lost Dog, the Brick Haus, and the K-1 store are a real perk of living here.

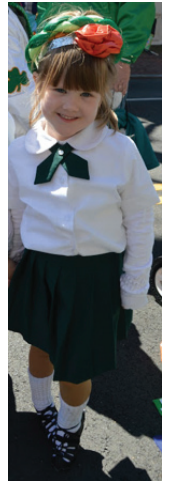
I like Arlington for its closeness to DC, and since it is a pretty compact community, I don't have to go very far to get to anything I need. The public transportation options are also really good; for the first 15 or so years we lived here we only needed one car. Alcov Heights itself is a great community - the neighbors were really the deciding factor when we decided to buy a place after renting our first house on 7th St. There is a sense of community here that would be hard to duplicate.

## Announcements & Milestones

16-year old **Carter Chen**, son of **Jim and Irene Chen** of Oakland St., earned the Boy Scout's Eagle Rank on February 2. His Eagle project was to make flying squirrel boxes for the Gulf Branch Nature Center.

**The Hoffmans -- Greg, Sheila, Bridget** (4 years old) and **Neil** (2 years old) of 9th St. celebrated two years with us in Alcov Heights this month; They moved in April 15, 2016.

**Bridget Bacas Hoffman** (right) of 9th St. marched and danced with the O'Neill-James School of Irish Dance in the rescheduled Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18.

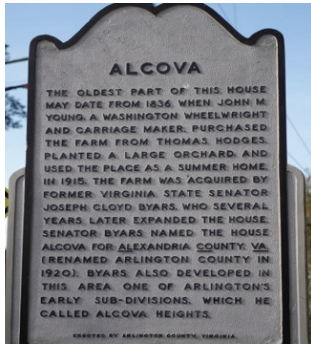


The longstanding **Alcov Heights Baby-sitting Co-op (AHBC)** now has openings for new families! AHBC allows member families to coordinate babysitting duties between families, using a points system. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and to find a sitter for a night out or an appointment. If you are interested in learning more, please send an email to Alex Stevens, [arstevens04@gmail.com](mailto:arstevens04@gmail.com).



## ALCOVA HEIGHTS SPRING SAFARI by Larry Yungk

It's springtime and we can finally get out of the house to enjoy the beautiful sights in Alcovia Heights. Can you find where these pictures were taken? All are in Alcovia Heights and in plain view from sidewalks or alleys. Happy hunting!



Found! ☐



Found! ☐



Found! ☐



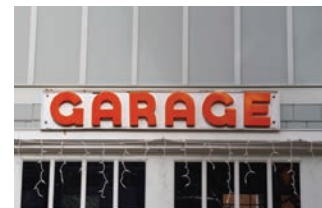
Found! ☐



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## Photographs of Alcova Heights in All Its Spring Splendor by Larry Yungk



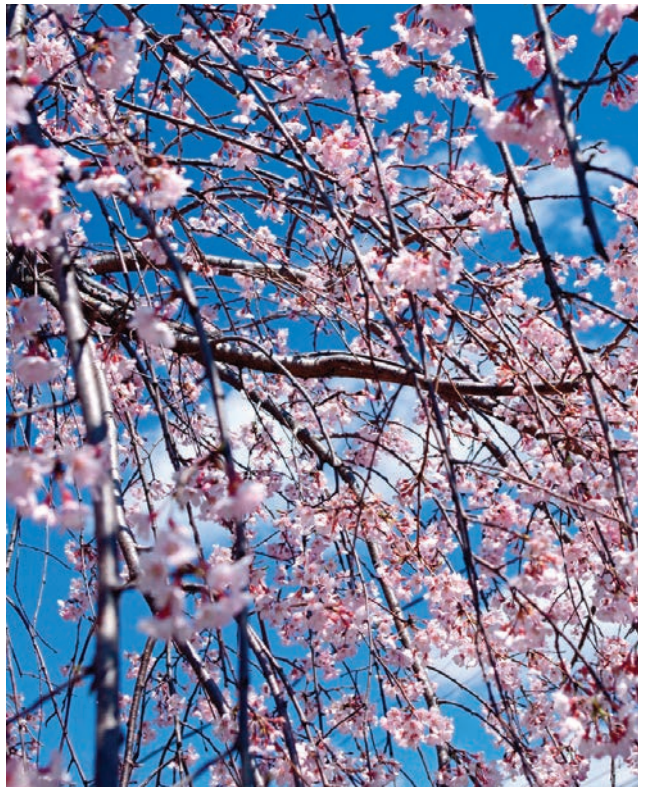
A majestic blue heron glides through Alcova Heights.



Cedar waxwings congregate and soak in the sun.



Fog descends on Alcova Heights Park.



*Left:* Snow falling on cedar . . . in March!

*Right:* Peach tree blossoms in their pink glory.

*Below:* One dove in a fir tree.





## A Neighbor Profile: *Pat Kehs*

We had been looking for a house in Arlington for several months when we had the good fortune to be the first to see this classic bungalow on South 8th Street that had just gone on the market. We were impressed by the large front porch, beautiful wood floors and moldings as well as the deep back yard. Once we learned that the house was an original Sears Bungalow (Vallonia style), my wife Lee Westell quickly made an offer and we moved in January 1994.

It didn't take long for us to realize that we had made a very good decision. The house has been such a joy to live in and the neighborhood is so convenient to... well, everything. Best of all, our Alcov Heights neighbors are wonderful! And we have a funny story about how we met many of our neighbors shortly after we moved in.

On April 1, 1994 we came home from work to find a note on our front door asking if we would be willing to allow a film crew to shoot some scenes inside and outside our house? We thought surely this was an April Fools joke, but it turned out that our house really does have curb appeal! A location scout for the television show, *Unsolved Mysteries* thought our house would be perfect for an episode they were filming at the Pentagon that week. The "mystery" had to do with an MIA military officer and our house played the role of the officer's parents' home in Missouri back in the 1960s. The production crew showed up for filming on a beautiful spring weekend complete with production trucks, a makeup trailer, period props, furniture and a mobile kitchen to feed everyone. The producers extended an invitation to our neighbors to join the TV crew and us for a big catered lunch. What a great way to get to know our neighbors!

Professionally, I am a studio lighting director and camera operator working for a variety of broadcast clients including NBC News, Voice of America and PBS. My primary job is Lighting Director for NBC's *Meet The Press* and I also do lighting for Chuck Todd's *Meet the Press Daily* show. I've been on the crew for *Meet the Press* for 20 years and have worked with moderators Tim Russert, David Gregory and now, Chuck Todd. I'm a bit of a political junkie and it's amazing to have a front-row seat at my lighting



board to witness political history and actually meet so many famous political figures including several US presidents. My work at NBC has also included operating camera for the live TV "pool" at four Presidential Inaugurations. One of my most memorable inaugurations was being up on a 30-foot high tower on a bitter cold and windy day, operating the close up camera for President Obama's first inauguration, which was watched by over 37 million people in the United States and millions around the world.

One of the fun camera jobs I do every year is covering the fireworks on July 4th for PBS. My live shot originates from Prospect House in Arlington and I get to share that amazing view with the entire country on the PBS broadcast of *A Capital Fourth*.

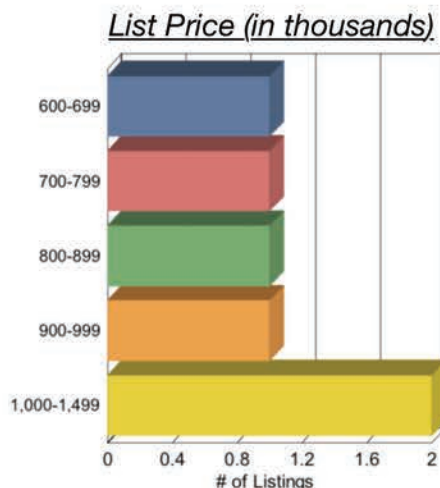
When I'm not in a television studio, you can most likely find me with my bass guitar making music with a band or at a jam session with other musicians. I'm currently playing in the original alternative rock band Jackie and The Treehorns. ([jackieandthetreehorns.com](http://jackieandthetreehorns.com)). We just finished the mixing of our fourth album which was recorded at Inner Ear Studios in Arlington with Don Zientara, an Arlington Heights resident. The album, "J", will be released in May. I also play bass in an original alt-country band called BoxCartel which will be playing at the Westover Beer Garden in June.

In addition to music, Lee and I love exploring the DC area's many waterways in our 17-foot tandem sea kayak. Lee and I don't have children, but we've always been dog owners. Since we've lived here, we've had three Akitas: Rosie, Lucy and Ellie and our current dog is an Australian Labradoodle named Mia. We love taking Mia for daily walks in the neighborhood. It helps keep us fit and we usually bump into a neighbor or two walking their dog and we'll often stop for a chat.

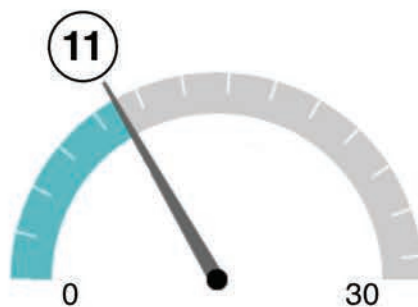
We are so happy to have made our home in Alcov Heights. It is a uniquely vibrant and supportive neighborhood with a distinct sense of community. From the awesome summer block parties to the Halloween parade and the neighborhood association meetings, Alcov Heights has always found ways to bring the community together and we're proud to be part of it.

# ALCOVA HEIGHTS

## 2018 1st Quarter Review (Jan-Mar)



Median Days On Market (DOM)



% of Sold Price to Original List Price

96.2

[www.AlcovaHeightsVA.com](http://www.AlcovaHeightsVA.com)

<u>Address</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Bed/Bath</u>	<u>DOM</u>
3711 8th St S	Active	\$799,000	3/3	4
830 Monroe St S	Active	\$849,000	6/4	9
813 Quincy St S	Active	\$1,115,000	4/3	175
3530 6th St S	Contract	\$939,000	4/3.5	13
3435 8th St S	Contract	\$1,319,000	4/4	5
3404 8th St S	Sold	\$624,900	2/2	81

Diane and Mitch are committed to making sure your house looks its absolute best when it goes on the market. Staging is an essential part of that. When you list with us, you get free staging services from StageMaster Homes, the company Diane founded in 2005. If you will be moving out before your house goes on the market, StageMaster Homes will provide furnishings to create a warm, inviting appearance. If you will be living in the home, Diane will advise on how to arrange your furnishings to achieve the best look in the all-important online photos and when potential buyers visit. Go to [StageMasterHomes.com](http://StageMasterHomes.com) to learn more, and call us when you are ready to move!



*With a combined total of 30 years experience, Mitch and Diane know how to sell houses. As residents of South Arlington, we are strong advocates for Alcova Heights and its surrounding neighborhoods. Whatever your real estate needs, we are here to help. If you are thinking of moving or just want to talk about your home's value, please give either one of us a call!*

### **Diane Duston**

Realtor & Home Stager  
dduston429@aol.com  
**703-203-8957**

### **Mitch Curtis**

Realtor  
mitch@mitchcurtishomes.com  
**202-557-1893**

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